REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These remarks are made in response to the Office Action of September 30, 2008 (Office Action). As this response is timely filed within the 3-month shortened statutory period, no fee is believed due. However, the Examiner is expressly authorized to charge any deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

Claim Rejections

Claim 1 was objected to because of informalities.

Appropriate correction has been made.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,745,692 to Lohmann II, *et al.* (hereinafter Lohmann) in view of U.S. Patent 7,020,611 to Gilde, *et al.* (hereinafter Gilde). Claims 5, 11, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lohmann in view of Gilde, and in further view of U.S. Patent 6,195,641 to Loring, *et al.* (hereinafter Loring). Claims 17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lohmann in view of Gilde, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,327,347 to Gutzmann (hereinafter Gutzmann).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections and thus have not amended the claims. Applicants have cancelled Claims 6-19. However, Applicants are not conceding that the cancelled claims fail to present patentable subject matter. The cancellations are solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution. Accordingly, the cancellations should not be interpreted as the surrender of any subject matter, and Applicants expressly reserve the right to present the original version of any of the cancelled claims in any future divisional or continuation applications from the present application.

Aspects of Applicants' Invention

It may be helpful to reiterate certain aspects of Applicants' invention prior to addressing the cited references. One embodiment of the invention, as typified by amended Claim 1, is a method of administering managed systems in a managed network using a voice interface.

The method can include storing a system speech profile corresponding to each managed system; automatically generating a grammar and a speech dialog for each managed system using the system speech profile; receiving a voice telephone call from a system administrator; authenticating the system administrator; receiving, over the voice telephone call, speech input that selects a managed system; recognizing the speech to identify the selected managed system; and loading a corresponding grammar and speech dialog for the selected managed system.

The method also can include receiving another speech input from the system administrator specifying an administrative function to be performed on the selected managed system; converting the speech to a textual representation using the grammar; matching the textual representation with an administrative command corresponding to the selected managed system; and providing the administrative command to the selected managed system.

The method further can include receiving a response from the selected managed system; extracting text information from the response; and rendering an audio representation of the extracted text information and playing back to the system administrator.

See, e.g., Specification, paragraphs [0031] to [0036]; see also Fig. 4.

The Claims Define Over The Prior Art

As already discussed in the previous response, one disadvantage of conventional management systems that follow the traditional model of command-line or console-based control is that the administrative terminal must be communicatively linked with the network being managed and thus typically is located in the same vicinity or proximate to the managed network. This essentially requires that the administrator also be located on-premises with the managed system so that any necessary actions can be implemented via the administrative console. Other management systems allow for control over managed resources using a thin client such as a Web browser. While this solution may not require software to be installed on the client system, such configurations do require data connectivity to the managed systems and/or resources.

In order to solve the above problems, the present invention provides a method for providing speech control of administrative or management functions relating to manageable systems within a managed network. According to the present invention, configuration data relating to one or more managed systems can be stored. Using the stored configuration data, an autonomic agent can automatically generate any grammars and speech dialogs that may be necessary for interacting with each managed system. The speech dialogs can be loaded into a telephony interface or manager on an as needed basis as administrators call to initiate administrative functions on the systems being managed.

Lohmann discloses a method for remotely administrating a computer server. An alert message is received from a remote server at a central support site. The alert message is matched to a contact person, i.e., systems administrator, for the server stored in a database at the central support site. A message is transmitted from the central support site to the systems administrator. When a call is received from the systems administrator at the central support site, the call is then matched to the alert message, and any further attempts to contact the systems administrator in response to the alert message is terminated at the central support site. The central support site waits for a call from the systems administrator for a predetermined period of time. If the time expires without a return call, a backup contact for the server is retrieved from the database at the central support site, and the message is re-transmitted from the central support site to the backup systems administrator. Once the systems administrator contacts the processor, they may enter either voice commands or Touch-Tone keypad commands that are then translated into server commands and transmitted to the remote server. The central support site may also transmit status queries to the remote server, and receive responses therefrom that are then communicated to the systems administrator. See the Abstract.

Clearly, the subject matter of Lohmann is totally different from the subject matter of the present invention. In Lohmann, a remote server sends an alert message to a central support site which then matches the alert message with a system administrator who can call in remotely. Therefore, in Lohmann the system administrators only play a passive role because they wait for the central support site to match them with any remote server that needs services. In contrast, in the present invention the system administrators actively manage the managed systems by selecting a managed system and performing other administrative functions using speech inputs.

It is also noted that the menu of commands of Lohmann is not a system speech profile in the sense of the present invention. In Lohmann, the menu of commands are universal to all remote servers, whereas in the present invention the speech profile is system specific. More particularly, in the present invention, each system speech profile can specify which functions of a given managed system have been installed and are available on the managed network, as well as which functions are to be voice-enabled and made available to system administrators via a telephony interface. The speech profile also can specify the particular control system and protocol used by each managed system as well as any translation rules for converting received spoken utterances to valid administration commands for each respective managed system. See Specification, paragraph [0022].

Similarly, in the present invention, the grammar and the speech dialog automatically generated for each managed system using the system speech profile are also system specific. In contrast, as already discussed above, in Lohmann the command set and the menu interface are created by the AT&T GBCS Conversant system 18 and are universal to all remote servers that send alert messages.

Gilde does not make up for the deficiencies of Lohmann as discussed above.

Accordingly, the cited references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest each and every element of Claim 1. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that Claim 1 defines over the prior art. Furthermore, as each of the remaining claims depends from Claim 1 while reciting additional features, Applicants further respectfully submit that the remaining claims likewise define over the prior art.

Applicants thus respectfully request that the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the

Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

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